



St Joseph's Catholic Church
Arkell Avenue, Carterton, OXON OX18 3BS



www.stjosephscarterton.uk

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RC Archdiocese of Birmingham charity
(No 234216)

First Lent Sunday (B) 21.02.2021

Sat 20 Feb Barbara Elliott GE

Sun 21 Feb **Live-streamed 10.00 Mass**

1st Lent Sunday (B) Barbara Jarrett / Frederick Shaw LD

Mon 22 Feb Farsin Kazem

Chair of St Peter

Tue 23 Feb Helen Rosario A

Wed 24 Feb Deryck Hewlett / Cornelius O'Donoghue A

Thu 25 Feb Cassius LD & Jacqueline GE

Fri 26 Feb Rosary Chain

Sat 27 Feb Ned, Mary & Mama Mulvaney GE

Sun 28 Feb **Live-streamed 10.00 Mass**

2nd Lent Sunday Anna & Andrew Martin/The Remnants

Live-streaming of Masses from St Joseph's continues on Sundays at **10.00am**. Details on the website: www.stjosephscarterton.uk

May I request that you **mute** yourselves to avoid your being heard?

Pastoral Ministry

Both Carterton and Burford churches remain closed. I will continue to offer Mass privately at both churches, and will be pleased to remember any Mass intentions. I do not propose to visit parishioners at home during lockdown but please contact me if you or anyone you know is in need of the sacraments. I will gladly come to you.

World Day of Prayer, Friday 5 March

St Joseph's is taking part and the service for Carterton and Brize Norton is being recorded. It can be seen from 7.00pm on 5 March onwards. You can access it via St John's Church Facebook page or the website: www.stjohnschurchcarterton.org.uk

St Joseph's School is in dire need of governors. Please pray that suitable people be found.

Please pray for those who have died: Rodney Forder, Joe Lambe, Pauline Leverett, Olive Harcourt, Christopher Murphy, Joan Clements, Monica Owen, Kate Gargan, Anne Jennings, Angela Overton, Marie Drew, John Robinson, John Joseph O'Neill, Michael Jackson, Rose Lane, Mary Hannah, Robert Eszenyi, David Gotelier, Sue Hand, Graham Copping, Romy Sadler-Tomkins, Jim & Lily Rooney, Terry Curtin.

Anniversaries: Helen Rosario, Pauline Golenia, Ruth Lynch, Simon Heath, Stan & Margaret Eagles, Frs Sean Farrell & Sean McTernan.

Please pray for the sick, housebound and those in the armed forces suffering mentally and physically from the effects of war: Pat Hay, Anne Gillick, Wendy Murray, Catherine Robinson, Peter Garfoot, Peter Doran, Lukasz Konieczny, Brendan Reynolds, Marie Whelan, Brendan Farrow, Dominic Martin, Phil Rice, Natalia Romanek, John Middleton, Pat Haddock, Mario Bugeja, Justin Family, Dom Michael Phillips, Kathleen Fagan, Jen Thomas, Ann Heaton, Celia McCauley, Pat Hand, Elaine Barry, Rodrigo Bantug, John Pollock, Richard, Nkechi, Celia Fairbrother, Annette Steele, Pauline Allen, Stephen, Cynthia Brick, Fr Bernard Garratt, John Titcombe.

Parish Bank details for Standing Orders

Natwest, 23 High Street, Witney, OX28 6HW

Account: St Joseph's Catholic Church

Account No: 43009530 Sort code: 60 24 60

Aluminium and metal cans / scrap metal

We can sell alu tins (and non-alu tins) if you collect them. **All** metal tins (and smaller pieces of scrap metal) can be turned to good use.

Ash Wednesday outside service.

Despite light rain we went ahead with the short service to mark Ash Wednesday. Fortunately most who attended were able to shelter in their cars.

First Sunday of Lent (B) 21.02.2021

Who likes being put to the test? There are those who provocatively have relished tests and examinations, but others uncompetitive, have preferred the freedom of gentle cross-country runs alone or tramping with dogs the south Oxfordshire Chilterns rights of way and some that were not. Noah and Mrs Noah and their extended family had no choice in the matter of the flood: they were as sorely tested as any class swot could wish for. But God promised ‘I establish my covenant with you: that never again shall all living things be destroyed by the waters of a flood, nor shall there ever again be a flood to devastate the earth.’ The sign of the covenant with Noah, that there would never be a repetition, was the rainbow. Jesus’ election to spend forty days in the wilderness was a choice dictated by the Spirit who drove him out into the desert.

If humanity has been visited by a pandemic no one would wish on their enemy and which has certainly put us to the test over recent months, can we hope for a fruitful outcome? The psychotherapist Susie Orbach in ‘Point of View’ on BBC radio 4 this week described the third lockdown as being responsible for a hurtful ‘social depression’, which many of us may have experienced. ‘The kind of minimal social interaction we used to take for granted: the chat with the greengrocer one didn’t necessarily even like that much; the hello to the postman and the schoolteacher; the ordinary conviviality at work; has pretty much been extinguished.’ Since the successful roll out of the vaccination programme we have lived a kind of duality. ‘We have had to juggle psychologically severe restrictions with the sense of an opening’: seeing the light but having to negotiate a very long, dark tunnel to get there. She suggests that ‘in accepting the inevitability of social depression, we have more of a way to manage it personally and collectively.’

Christians are not immune to social depression but can we experience hope in lockdown, and even offer a fruitful collective Lenten path out of this tunnel? Reflection and self-examination (rather than an imposed examination) are first priorities. We experience in prayer the overflowing of God’s love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit to make space for others. This gift of love gives us the momentum to serve (God in) others, especially in those who suffer. As we pray for an end to a pandemic which has been catastrophic, stretching health care systems to breaking point and devastating the global economy, we pray for all our brothers and sisters that never again should a virus pandemic wreak such devastation on the world.

